

To whom it may concern;

It has come to my attention that Sinclair Broadcast Group of Hunt Valley, MD is set to air a highly partisan and inflammatory anti-Kerry piece entitled "Stolen Honor" just weeks before the election. While I accept that free speech principles apply here, I am concerned when I hear that Sinclair is forcing their member stations to air this piece at the expense of these stations' normal programming.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.